

Claim 16. An isolated peptide comprising an amino acid sequence that is identical to or sufficiently similar to an amino acid sequence occurring naturally in TGF $\beta$ 1 and/or a TGF $\beta$ 1 receptor so as to have antagonistic activity in preventing TGF $\beta$ 1 from interacting with the receptor, said amino acid sequence comprising from 9 to 23 amino acids.

Claim 17. The isolated peptide of claim 16, wherein the amino acid sequence is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO: 3; SEQ ID NO: 4; SEQ ID NO: 5; SEQ ID NO: 6; SEQ ID NO: 7; SEQ ID NO: 8 and SEQ ID NO: 9.

Claim 18. The isolated peptide of claim 17, wherein the amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 3.

Claim 19. The isolated peptide of claim 17, wherein the amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 4.

Claim 20. The isolated peptide of claim 17, wherein the amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 5.

Claim 21. The isolated peptide of claim 17, wherein the amino acid sequence is SEQ ID NO: 6.

Claim 22. The isolated peptide of claim 17, wherein the amino acid sequence is SEQ

ID NO: 7.

Claim 23. The isolated peptide of claim 17, wherein the amino acid sequence is SEQ

ID NO: 8.

Claim 24. The isolated peptide of claim 17, wherein the amino acid sequence is SEQ

ID NO: 9.

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Claim 25. A mimotope of the isolated peptide of claim 17, wherein the mimotope has a longer life in the body of a patient than the isolated peptide.

Claim 26. A method for treating a liver disease in a patient comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of the isolated peptide of claim 16 or a composition comprising the isolated peptide of claim 16.

Claim 27. The method according to claim 26, wherein the liver disease is hepatic fibrosis.

Claim 28. A method for treating a liver disease in a patient comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of the isolated peptide of claim 17 or a composition comprising the isolated peptide of claim 17.

Claim 29. The method according to claim 28, wherein the liver disease is hepatic